

## CLAIMS:

1. A patient care equipment support system comprising:  
an arm supported in a hospital room for pivoting movement about a  
5 generally vertical axis,  
a column coupled to the arm for movement therewith, the column  
configured to support patient care equipment, and  
a brake movable between a braking position to impede the pivoting  
movement of the arm and a releasing position allowing pivoting movement of the  
10 arm.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the brake normally impedes the  
pivoting movement of the arm, and the brake allows the pivoting movement of the  
arm when the brake is deactivated in response to a user input.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the brake is deactivated by a  
15 user input device, and the user input device is mounted on the column.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the brake is deactivated by a  
user input device, and the user input device is mounted remote from the column.
5. The system of claim 1, comprising a pivot member coupled to  
the arm for rotation therewith about the axis, the pivot member being generally  
20 concentric with the axis.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the brake includes a strap  
configured to be wrapped around a portion of the pivot member.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the brake includes a linear  
actuator coupled to the strap, the linear actuator having a strap-tightening position  
25 where the arm is impeded from pivoting about the axis and a strap-releasing position  
where the arm is permitted to pivot about the axis.
8. The system of claim 5, wherein the brake includes a brake pad  
engageable with the pivot member.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the brake includes a linear  
30 actuator coupled to the brake pad, the linear actuator having a brake pad-engaging  
position where the arm is impeded from pivoting about the axis and a brake pad-  
releasing position where the arm is permitted to pivot about the axis.

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10. The system of claim 9, wherein the brake includes a caliper arm carrying the brake pad, and the linear actuator is coupled to the caliper arm for moving the brake pad into and out of engagement with the pivot member in response to a user input.

5 11. The system of claim 5, wherein the brake includes a gear mounted generally concentrically to the pivot member for rotation therewith.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the brake includes a caliper arm having a tooth for selectively engaging the gear mounted to the pivot member to prevent pivoting movement of the arm about the axis.

10 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the brake includes a linear actuator coupled to the caliper arm for moving the tooth into and out of engagement with the pivot member-mounted gear in response to a user input.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the arm is a telescoping arm.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein the arm is a fixed-length arm.

15 16. The system of claim 1, wherein the arm extends outwardly from a headwall support structure.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the arm is supported by a ceiling structure.

18. A patient care equipment support system comprising:  
20 an arm supported in a hospital room for pivoting movement about a generally vertical axis,

a column coupled to the arm for movement therewith, the column configured to support patient care equipment,

a pivot member coupled to the arm for rotation therewith about the  
25 axis, the pivot member being generally concentric with the axis,

a brake movable between a braking position engaging the pivot member to impede the pivoting movement of the arm and a releasing position allowing pivoting movement of the arm, and

an actuator coupled to the brake to move the brake between the  
30 braking and releasing positions in response to an input from a user.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the brake includes a strap configured to be wrapped around a portion of the pivot member and a linear actuator coupled to the strap, the linear actuator having a strap-tightening position where the

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arm is impeded from pivoting about the axis and a strap-releasing position where the arm is permitted to pivot about the axis.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the brake includes a brake pad engageable with the pivot member, a caliper arm carrying the brake pad and a linear  
5 actuator coupled to the caliper arm for moving the brake pad into and out of engagement with the pivot member in response to a user input.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the brake includes a gear mounted to the pivot member for rotation therewith, a caliper arm having a tooth and a linear actuator coupled to the caliper arm for moving the tooth into and out of  
10 engagement with the pivot member-mounted gear in response to a user input.